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in the *American Year Book for 1918* (pp. 235-236), with no acknowledgment nor quotation marks. One result of this has been to lead the compiler into the error of supposing that the language thus borrowed describes the recommendations of the commission, whereas, in large part, it describes recommendations of the expert attached to the commission, which were not adopted by the commission nor printed in its report. Further, although a quotation is given from the report of the commission, no publications of the commission are listed, as in the case of the other state agencies.

On page 142 it is stated that the recommendations of the Illinois Efficiency and Economy Committee were "for the most part accepted and acted upon by the next General Assembly." In fact, the next general assembly, that of 1915, did practically nothing toward adopting the recommendations of the committee. Under the head of "articles," describing the work of efficiency and economy commissions, the compiler lists an account in the appendix to the report of the Illinois committee, but makes no mention of other more recent and at least as authoritative accounts, such as that by Raymond Moley in No. 90 of *Municipal Research*, though the latter publication is listed on page 188 (the author's name being misspelt "Maley"). A useful index is added, but the method of its compilation appears somewhat erratic. Thus, the names of some persons mentioned in the text are listed, while others are not, and the names of some authors of publications are listed, while others are not. In spite of these minor defects, however, the work is one of real value and usefulness, and no one can afford to be without it who is interested in the movement for more efficient and economical administration.

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J. M. MATHEWS.

County Administration: A Study Based upon a Survey of County Government in the State of Delaware. By CHESTER C. MAXEY, Supervisor of Training School for Public Service. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1919. Pp. xxi, 203.).

The subject of local administration has not received, from writers in the field of American political science, the attention which its importance deserves. Realizing the great demand for more first-hand knowledge in the subject, the New York Bureau of Municipal Research has begun the publication of a series of "Studies in Administration." The book under review is the first of the series. Giving first place in

the series to county administration was not an unwise choice, since the county is still our most neglected unit of government.

The purpose of this study and of other studies to follow, as stated in the introduction by Professor Beard, is to contribute first-hand information or "source material for the science of administration that is in the making." As to method: laws, charters and government reports play little part; the all-important source of information is "first-hand observations of institutions at work."

The basis of Mr. Maxey's study is a survey of the three counties of Delaware. The survey embraces their structure and organization, their financial procedure and business problems, and the administration of their alms-houses, jails, work-houses, and highways. The city-county relations of the city of Wilmington and the county of New Castle are also examined.

The "first-hand information" resulting from the survey, however, comprises not more than one half of the book. At least one half the space is given to the author's proposed changes in organization, financial and business procedure, etc. In fact, the reviewer was impressed not so much with the "source material" furnished by the survey, as by the author's clear and vigorous presentation of the advantages of the "manager" form of county government and the convincing reasons for the adoption of the business principles and methods championed by the New York Bureau of Municipal Research.

A less complete escape from the "bondage to legalistic traditions" and a thorough examination of the "laws, charters and government reports," in addition to the (at times confessed—see pp. 69, 138) hasty visit to the office of the official, or to the institution, under investigation would have enhanced the value of the study as a contribution to the science of administration.

The excellent classified bibliography will be greatly appreciated by all students of county administration.

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The American Municipal Executive. By RUSSELL McCULLOCH STORY, Ph.D. (University of Illinois, Studies in the Social Sciences. 1918. Pp. 231.)

In his study of *The American Municipal Executive* Dr. Story has performed a task which all interested in municipal government have